



Course syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Department of Economics and Statistics

4NA051 Teman i arbetsmarknadsekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Topics in Labour Economics, 7.5 credits

Main field of study

Economics

Subject Group

Economics

Level of classification

Second Level

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved by School of Business and Economics 2014-10-01

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies on second level and specific entry requirements: Economics 90 credits including Mathematical Economics II 7.5 credits, Econometrics 7.5 credits, Intermediate Microeconomics 7.5 credits and Intermediate Macroeconomics 7.5 credits and Labour Economics 7.5 credits, and Statistics 15 credits or credits in time series analysis and regression analysis, and English B/English 6, or equivalent.

Objectives

After the course the student should be able to absorb current labour market research published in high-quality scientific journals. Using these skills, students should be able to:

- apply relevant theories and methodological methods to evaluate the effects of different labour market policies, such as changes in tax schemes and public transfers, on individual and household labour supply
- explain how individuals allocate their labour supply over the life cycle
- explain and derive individuals' demand for children and what factors that affects fertility
- explain and derive models explaining individuals' self-employment decision and identify different factors that determine individuals' decision to start at business
- illustrate how labour demand is affected by changes in the wage rate and how minimum wages affect the employer's hiring decision
- explain how labour unions affect the wage rate, the unemployment rate, and the wage dispersion
- identify the effect of general and firm-specific human capital on individuals' wage rate and career advancement
- identify explanations to changes in the wage structure, explain how technology

changes may affect the wage structure, and explain the concept of intergenerational mobility and its causes

- identify and explain why individuals choose to invest in human capital, what factors that affect the economic returns to education, and describe existing empirical evidence on the economic returns to human capital investment
- identify and explain the surroundings' (family, friend, colleagues) importance for individuals' success in the educational system and on the labour market, empirically describe how so-called "peer effects" affect economic outcomes and identify the empirical problems associated with such studies
- identify and explain the causes of discrimination, explain how to measure the existence and extent of discrimination with different empirical methods and explain the advantages and disadvantages of these methods

Content

The course consists of:

- labour supply
- labour demand
- time allocation
- fertility
- entrepreneurship and self-employment
- wage structure
- the effect of minimum wages
- human capital theory
- human capital investment
- the economic returns to education
- the effect of school choice
- peer effects
- intergenerational mobility

Type of Instruction

Lectures, laboratory sessions and obligatory seminars. Obligatory parts are stated in the schedule.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades A, B, C, D, E, Fx or F.

The assessment of the performance of the students is based on presentation of scientific articles at seminars, the results of the laboratory sessions and a written examination.

The grade A constitutes the highest grade on the scale and the remaining grades follow in descending order where the grade E is the lowest grade on the scale that will result in a pass. The grade F means that the student's performance is assessed as fail.

After each regular examination there will be at least one new examination in close proximity to the date the results of the regular exam were posted. A minimum of five occasions for written exams will be offered in relation to the syllabus to which the student was accepted. Usually three occasions per academic year are offered. Students that fail reports can complement after instructions from the examiner to obtain a pass grade.

Grading criteria for the A-F scale are communicated in writing to the student by the start of the course/module at the latest, as well as how grades on separate elements of examination are weighed to a final course grade.

Course Evaluation

A written course evaluation is carried out and compiled in a report, which is archived at the faculty. The results and possible measures taken are communicated by the course coordinator and presented to the students the next time the course is given, or in another

way deemed suitable by the course coordinator. Other types of course evaluations, for example regular evaluations throughout the course or discussions with students, will be included and encouraged with the aim of ensuring continuous quality development.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Required reading

Scientific articles, about 300 pages.